

to furnish such policy for reasons satisfactory to the Commissioner, the lender shall furnish such evidence of title as provided in paragraph (a) (2), (3), or (4) of this section as the Commissioner may require. Any survey, policy of title insurance, or evidence of title required under this section shall be furnished without expense to the Commissioner. The acceptable types of title evidence are:

(1) A policy of title insurance issued by a company and in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner. The policy shall name the lender and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, as their respective interests may appear, as the insured. The policy shall provide that upon acquisition of title by the lender or the Secretary, it will continue to provide the same coverage as the original policy, and will run to the lender upon its acquisition of the property in extinguishment of the debt, and to the Secretary upon acquisition of the property pursuant to the loan insurance contract.

(2) An abstract of title satisfactory to the Commissioner, prepared by an abstract company or individual engaged in the business of preparing abstracts of title, accompanied by a legal opinion satisfactory to the Commissioner, as to the quality of such title, signed by an attorney at law experienced in the examination of titles.

(3) A Torrens or similar title certificate.

(4) Evidence of title conforming to the standards of a supervising branch of the Government of the United States of America, or of any State or territory thereof.

(b) The survey required by paragraph (a) of this section need not be furnished in connection with a project where the loan does not exceed \$200,000.

[45 FR 57983, Aug. 29, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 34217, June 24, 1993]

#### FORM OF CONTRACT

#### § 241.605 Contract requirements.

(a) When the principal amount of the loan is \$100,000 or less, the form of contract between the borrower and the contractor shall be in accordance with the following:

(1) The contract between the borrower and the general contractor may be in the form of either a lump sum contract or a cost plus contract. Either form of contract shall include the cost of the energy conserving improvements, their installation, and such other work to be performed by the contractor as necessary to meet the requirements of the Secretary. A lump sum contract shall provide for the payment of a specified amount. A cost plus contract shall provide for the payment of the contractor's actual cost of compliance with the requirements of the contract, plus such allowances for overhead and profit as may be approved by the Commissioner and shall provide that the total cost under the contract shall not exceed the upset price as approved by the Commissioner.

(2) If agreed to by the general contractor and borrower, a lump sum form of contract between the borrower and the general contractor may be used unless the Commissioner determines that a cost plus contract with a maximum upset price is necessary to protect the interest of the borrower or the Commissioner.

(b) When the principal amount of the loan is over \$100,000, the form of contract between the borrower and the contractor shall be in accordance with the following:

(1) *Lump sum contract.* If the Commissioner determines that there is no identity of interest between the borrower or any of the officers, directors or stockholders of the borrower and the contractor, there may be used a lump sum contract providing for payment of the specified amount.

(2) *Cost plus fixed fee contract.* (i) If the Commissioner determines that there is any identity of interest (financial or otherwise) between the borrower, its officers, directors or stockholders and the contractor, the form of contract shall provide for payment of the actual cost of construction not to exceed an upset price and may provide for payment of a fixed fee not exceeding a reasonable allowance as established by the Commissioner in accordance with customary practices in the area.

(ii) In any case where the borrower is a nonprofit entity, a cost plus fixed fee

contract shall be used unless it is established to the Commissioner's satisfaction that such form of contract is not required to protect his/her interests and the interests of the borrower, in which case, a lump sum form of contract may be used.

**§ 241.610 Assurance of completion.**

(a) The borrower shall furnish assurance of completion of the project in the following minimum forms and amounts:

(1) Where the estimated cost of construction of the improvements is \$500,000 or less, the borrower shall furnish assurance of completion of the project in the form of a personal indemnity agreement executed by the principal officers, directors, stockholders, or partners of the entity acting as general contractor.

(2) Where the estimated cost of construction of the improvements is more than \$500,000 or where such cost is less than \$500,000 and a personal indemnity agreement is not executed, the assurance shall be in the form of corporate surety bonds for payment and performance, each in the minimum amount of 25 percent of the construction contract, or a completion assurance agreement secured by a cash deposit in the minimum amount of 15 percent of the amount of the construction contract.

(3) All types of assurance of completion shall be on forms approved by the Commissioner. Any surety company executing a bond and any party executing a personal indemnity agreement must be satisfactory to the Commissioner.

(4) A mortgagee may prescribe more stringent requirements for assurance of completion than the minimum requirements of this section.

(b) The lender may accept, in lieu of a cash deposit required by paragraph (a) of this section, an unconditional irrevocable letter of credit issued to the lender by a banking institution. In the event a demand under the letter of credit is not immediately met, the lender shall forthwith provide cash equivalent to the undrawn balance thereunder.

**§ 241.615 Certification of cost requirements.**

(a) *Certification agreement.* The lender shall submit with the application an agreement on a form prescribed by the Commissioner and executed by the borrower and the lender.

(b) *Certificate and adjustment.* No loan shall be insured unless:

(1) A certification of actual cost is made by the contractor in cases in which a cost plus form of contract is used; and

(2) The amount of the loan is adjusted to reflect the actual cost to the borrower of the improvements when either a cost plus or lump sum form of contract is used.

(c) *Cost computation.* The term *actual cost of the improvements* shall mean the cost to the borrower of the improvements, after deducting the amount of any kickbacks, rebates or trade discount received in connection with the improvements, and including the amounts paid under any contract for the improvements, labor, materials, and for any other items of expenses approved by the Commissioner.

(d) *Statement of facts.* Any agreement, undertaking, statement or certification required in connection with cost certification shall specifically state that it has been made, presented and delivered for the purpose of influencing an official action of the Commissioner and may be relied upon as a true statement of the facts contained therein.

(e) *Incontestability.* Upon the Commissioner's approval of the cost certification, such certification shall be final and incontestable except for fraud or material misrepresentation on the part of the borrower.

(f) *Records.* The borrower shall keep and maintain adequate records of all costs of any construction improvements or other cost items not representing work under the general contract and shall require the contractor to keep similar records and, upon request by the Commissioner, both shall make available for examination such records, including any collateral agreements.

(g) *Certificate of public accountant.* Where required by the Commissioner, each certificate of actual cost shall be